

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20, 24, 28, and 31-39 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 21 and 25 are rejected under §35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claim 30 is rejected under §35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 22, 23, 26, 27 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but the Office Action indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants have amended Claims 21 and 25, cancelled Claims 22 and 26 and added new Claims 40 and 41. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.111, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the invention in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejected Claims 21 and 25 as being anticipated by Hozumi. In particular, the Office Action asserted that Hozumi disclose a vehicle/aircraft having a lavatory unit with a cabinet assembly which includes a housing having a first wall with an opening and a second wall having access port, and a module. The module has *one* compartment that is alignable with the access port. With regard to amended Claims 21 and 25, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

However, the Office Action stated that Claim 22, which prior to the current amendment, claimed a module that includes a *plurality* of amenity compartments, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. The Examine also made similar recommendations for Claims 23, 26, 27 and 29.

Applicant has amended Claim 21 to claim a vehicle lavatory unit having a cabinet assembly that includes a module that includes a *plurality* of amenity compartments. Likewise, Applicant has also amended Claim 25 to claim an aircraft that comprises a lavatory unit having a cabinet assembly that includes a module that includes a *plurality* of amenity compartments.


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Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to Claims 21 and 25 fully address the rejection, and currently amended Claims 21 and 25 are allowable over the cited reference.

Because Claim 23 and new Claim 40 depend from allowable independent Claim 21, and Claims 27, 29 and 40 depend from allowable Claim 25, they are allowable for the same reason that makes their corresponding independent claims allowable.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner took official notice that a means for locking a module in place is well known in this day and age. The Office Action rejected Claim 30 as being unpatentable over Hozumi in view of the official notice. In other words, the Office Action states that Hozumi, in combination with the official notice, teach or suggest a vehicle/aircraft having a lavatory unit with a cabinet assembly that includes a housing having a first wall with an opening, and a second wall having an access port, and a module. Further, the module has *one* compartment that is alignable with the access port, and a device for locking the module in the housing.

As stated earlier, Applicant has amended Claim 25 to claim an aircraft that comprises a lavatory unit having a cabinet assembly that includes a module that further includes a *plurality* of amenity compartments. Because Claim 30 depends from Claim 25, Hozumi, in combination with the official notice, nevertheless fail to teach or suggest, alone in combination, a module with a device for locking that includes a *plurality* of amenity compartments. Therefore, Applicant submits that currently amended Claim 30 is allowable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the pending application are now in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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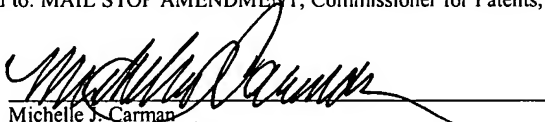


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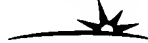
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